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JC772 U.S. PTO

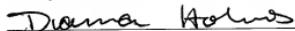
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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

### CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

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Attorney Docket No.: SUN1P252/P4198

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### UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (37 CFR. § 1.53(b))

(Regular application claiming priority of a provisional)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, DC 20231

Duplicate for  
fee processing

Sir: This is a request for filing a patent application under 37 CFR. § 1.53(b) in the name of inventors:  
**Robert G. Field, Gordon Hirsch**

For: **DEBUGGER PROTOCOL GENERATOR**

Priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. **60/145,136** filed on **July 21, 1999** is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

#### Application Elements:

- 22** Pages of Specification, Claims and Abstract
- 05** Sheets of **formal/informal** Drawings
- 02** Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney
- Separate Declaration

#### Accompanying Application Parts:

- Assignment and Assignment Recordation Cover Sheet (recording fee of \$40.00 enclosed)
- Separate Power of Attorney by Assignee
- 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement by Assignee
- Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449
  - Copies of IDS Citations
- Preliminary Amendment
- Return Receipt Postcard

Small Entity Statement(s)  
 Other:

Claim For Foreign Priority

Priority of \_\_\_\_\_ Application No. \_\_\_\_\_ filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

The certified copy is enclosed.  
 The certified copy will follow.

Fee Calculation (37 CFR § 1.16)

	(Col. 1) NO. FILED	(Col. 2) NO. EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE FEE	OR	LARGE ENTITY RATE FEE
BASIC FEE			\$345 \$	OR	\$690 \$690.00
TOTAL CLAIMS	18	-20 = 0	x9 = \$	OR	x18= \$0
INDEP CLAIMS	04	-03 = 1	x39= \$	OR	x78= \$ 78.00
[ ] Multiple Dependent Claim Presented			\$130 = \$	OR	\$260= \$
* If the difference in Col. 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in Col. 2.			Total \$	OR	Total \$768.00

Our check in the amount of **\$768.00** is enclosed.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees beyond the amount enclosed which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. SUN1P252).

General Authorization for Petition for Extension of Time (37 CFR § 1.136)

Applicants hereby make and generally authorize any Petitions for Extensions of Time as may be needed for any subsequent filings. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any extension fees under 37 CFR §1.17 as may be needed to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. SUN1P252).

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**APPLICATION FOR U.S. PATENT**

**DEBUGGER PROTOCOL GENERATOR**

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# DEBUGGER PROTOCOL GENERATOR

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application Number 60/145,136, entitled "JAVA PLATFORM DEBUGGER ARCHITECTURE," filed July 21, 5 1999; and is related to U.S. Patent Application Number \_\_\_\_\_, attorney docket number SUN1P251/P4232, entitled "EXTENDABLE JAVA DEBUGGER CONNECTION MECHANISM," filed \_\_\_\_\_; the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.

### **1. Field of the Invention**

10 The present invention relates generally to the field of computer software, and more particularly to protocol generating software for generating software components from a formal specification.

### **2. Description of the Problem to be Solved**

15 The Java™ Debug Wire Protocol (JDWP) (Java™ and related marks are trademarks of Sun Microsystems, Inc.) is a protocol for communicating between a debugger application and a Java Virtual Machine (target VM). By implementing the JDWP, a debugger can either work in a different process on the same computer, or on a remote computer. Since Java™ programming applications may be implemented across a wide variety of different hardware platforms and operating systems, the JDWP facilitates remote debugging across a multi-  
20 platform system. In contrast, many prior art debugging systems are designed to run on a single platform and must generally debug only applications running on the same or similar platform.

Typically, a debugger application is written in the Java programming language and the target side is written in native code. In a reference implementation of JDWP, a front-end

4 debugger component is written in Java and a back-end reference implementation for the target  
VM is written in C. Both pieces of code need to be compliant with a detailed protocol  
specification, or the reference system will fail. What is needed is some mechanism to assure  
that both the front-end and back-end code portions are truly compatible with the protocol  
5 specification and with each other.

10 Languages exist for the specification of inter-process/object communication, such as  
the Interface Definition Language (IDL) which is part of the Common Object Request Broker  
Architecture (CORBA), developed by the Object Management Group (OMG). These  
languages are compiled (i.e. by an IDL compiler) to produce stubs for the client side of  
10 communication and skeletons for the server side. However, such languages are not directed  
to the problems associated with generating protocol compliant debugger code.

Therefore, it would be desirable to have method for generating both the front-end  
code and the back-end code for a debugger directly from a detailed specification.

15

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 The present invention provides a method for automatically generating front-end code  
and back-end code that are both compatible with an interface specification, such as the JDWP  
communications protocol. First, a detailed protocol specification is written that contains a  
description of a communications protocol between the front-end and the back-end. The  
20 detailed specification is then input into a code generator that parses the specification. The  
front-end code is then automatically generated from the formal specification, and may be  
written in a first computer language such as the Java programming language. The code  
generator then generates the back-end code, which may be written in a second computer  
language such as C.

The present invention may further generate HTML code containing a human-readable description of the protocol specification.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

5 The present invention will be readily understood by the following detailed description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals designate like structural elements, and in which:

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a computer system suitable for implementing the present invention;

10 Figure 2a is a diagram illustrating the Java Platform Debugger Architecture;

Figure 2b is a diagram illustrating the Java Platform Debugger Architecture showing JDWP processing modules of the present invention;

Figure 3 is a diagram illustrating the input and outputs of the debugger protocol generator of the present invention; and

15 Figure 4 is diagram of a Java Virtual Machine suitable for use in one implementation of the present invention.

#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

The following description is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the invention and sets forth the best modes contemplated by the inventor for carrying 20 out the invention. Various modifications, however, will remain readily apparent to those skilled in the art, since the basic principles of the present invention have been defined herein specifically to provide a method for assuring compatibility between a front-end debugger program running on a first virtual machine and a back-end debugger agent program running

on a second virtual machine, wherein a communications protocol between the front-end program and the back-end program is defined by a formal specification.

The present invention employs various computer-implemented operations involving data stored in computer systems. These operations include, but are not limited to, those requiring physical manipulation of physical quantities. Usually, though not necessarily, these quantities take the form of electrical or magnetic signals capable of being stored, transferred, combined, compared, and otherwise manipulated. The operations described herein that form part of the invention are useful machine operations. The manipulations performed are often referred to in terms, such as, producing, identifying, running, determining, comparing, executing, downloading, or detecting. It is sometimes convenient, principally for reasons of common usage, to refer to these electrical or magnetic signals as bits, values, elements, variables, characters, data, or the like. It should be remembered, however, that all of these and similar terms are to be associated with the appropriate physical quantities and are merely convenient labels applied to these quantities.

The present invention also relates to a device, system or apparatus for performing the aforementioned operations. The system may be specially constructed for the required purposes, or it may be a general purpose computer selectively activated or configured by a computer program stored in the computer. The processes presented above are not inherently related to any particular computer or other computing apparatus. In particular, various general-purpose computers may be used with programs written in accordance with the teachings herein, or, alternatively, it may be more convenient to construct a more specialized computer system to perform the required operations.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a general purpose computer system 100 suitable for carrying out the processing in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 1 illustrates one embodiment of a general purpose computer system. Other computer system architectures and configurations can be used for carrying out the processing of the present invention. Computer system 100, made up of various subsystems described below, includes at least one microprocessor subsystem (also referred to as a central processing unit, 5 or CPU) 102. That is, CPU 102 can be implemented by a single-chip processor or by multiple processors. It should be noted that in re-configurable computing systems, CPU 102 can be distributed amongst a group of programmable logic devices. In such a system, the programmable logic devices can be reconfigured as needed to control the operation of computer system 100. In this way, the manipulation of input data is distributed amongst the 10 group of programmable logic devices. CPU 102 is a general purpose digital processor which controls the operation of the computer system 100. Using instructions retrieved from memory, the CPU 102 controls the reception and manipulation of input data, and the output and display of data on output devices.

CPU 102 is coupled bi-directionally with a first primary storage 104, typically a 15 random access memory (RAM), and uni-directionally with a second primary storage area 106, typically a read-only memory (ROM), via a memory bus 108. As is well known in the art, primary storage 104 can be used as a general storage area and as scratch-pad memory, and can also be used to store input data and processed data. It can also store programming 20 instructions and data, in the form of data objects, in addition to other data and instructions for processes operating on CPU 102, and is used typically used for fast transfer of data and instructions in a bi-directional manner over the memory bus 108. Also as well known in the art, primary storage 106 typically includes basic operating instructions, program code, data and objects used by the CPU 102 to perform its functions. Primary storage devices 104 and 106 may include any suitable computer-readable storage media, described below, depending

on whether, for example, data access needs to be bi-directional or uni-directional. CPU 102 can also directly and very rapidly retrieve and store frequently needed data in a cache memory 110.

A removable mass storage device 112 provides additional data storage capacity for the 5 computer system 100, and is coupled either bi-directionally or uni-directionally to CPU 102 via a peripheral bus 114. For example, a specific removable mass storage device commonly known as a CD-ROM typically passes data uni-directionally to the CPU 102, whereas a floppy disk can pass data bi-directionally to the CPU 102. Storage 112 may also include computer-readable media such as magnetic tape, flash memory, signals embodied on a carrier 10 wave, PC-CARDS, portable mass storage devices, holographic storage devices, and other storage devices. A fixed mass storage 116 also provides additional data storage capacity and is coupled bi-directionally to CPU 102 via peripheral bus 114. The most common example of mass storage 116 is a hard disk drive. Generally, access to these media is slower than access to primary storages 104 and 106.

15 Mass storage 112 and 116 generally store additional programming instructions, data, and the like that typically are not in active use by the CPU 102. It will be appreciated that the information retained within mass storage 112 and 116 may be incorporated, if needed, in standard fashion as part of primary storage 104 (e.g. RAM) as virtual memory.

In addition to providing CPU 102 access to storage subsystems, the peripheral bus 20 114 is used to provide access other subsystems and devices as well. In the described embodiment, these include a display monitor 118 and adapter 120, a printer device 122, a network interface 124, an auxiliary input/output device interface 126, a sound card 128 and speakers 130, and other subsystems as needed.

The network interface 124 allows CPU 102 to be coupled to another computer, computer network, or telecommunications network using a network connection as shown. Through the network interface 124, it is contemplated that the CPU 102 might receive information, *e.g.*, data objects or program instructions, from another network, or might output 5 information to another network in the course of performing the above-described method steps. Information, often represented as a sequence of instructions to be executed on a CPU, may be received from and outputted to another network, for example, in the form of a computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave. An interface card or similar device and appropriate software implemented by CPU 102 can be used to connect the computer system 10 100 to an external network and transfer data according to standard protocols. That is, method embodiments of the present invention may execute solely upon CPU 102, or may be performed across a network such as the Internet, intranet networks, or local area networks, in conjunction with a remote CPU that shares a portion of the processing. Additional mass storage devices (not shown) may also be connected to CPU 102 through network interface 15 124.

Auxiliary I/O device interface 126 represents general and customized interfaces that allow the CPU 102 to send and, more typically, receive data from other devices such as microphones, touch-sensitive displays, transducer card readers, tape readers, voice or handwriting recognizers, biometrics readers, cameras, portable mass storage devices, and 20 other computers.

Also coupled to the CPU 102 is a keyboard controller 132 via a local bus 134 for receiving input from a keyboard 136 or a pointer device 138, and sending decoded symbols from the keyboard 136 or pointer device 138 to the CPU 102. The pointer device may be a mouse, stylus, track ball, or tablet, and is useful for interacting with a graphical user interface.

In addition, embodiments of the present invention further relate to computer storage products with a computer readable medium that contain program code for performing various computer-implemented operations. The computer-readable medium is any data storage device that can store data which can thereafter be read by a computer system. The media and 5 program code may be those specially designed and constructed for the purposes of the present invention, or they may be of the kind well known to those of ordinary skill in the computer software arts. Examples of computer-readable media include, but are not limited to, all the media mentioned above: magnetic media such as hard disks, floppy disks, and magnetic tape; optical media such as CD-ROM disks; magneto-optical media such as floptical disks; and 10 specially configured hardware devices such as application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs), programmable logic devices (PLDs), and ROM and RAM devices. The computer-readable medium can also be distributed as a data signal embodied in a carrier wave over a network of coupled computer systems so that the computer-readable code is stored and 15 executed in a distributed fashion. Examples of program code include both machine code, as produced, for example, by a compiler, or files containing higher level code that may be executed using an interpreter.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the above described hardware and software elements are of standard design and construction. Other computer systems suitable for use with the invention may include additional or fewer subsystems. In addition, memory 20 bus 108, peripheral bus 114, and local bus 134 are illustrative of any interconnection scheme serving to link the subsystems. For example, a local bus could be used to connect the CPU to fixed mass storage 116 and display adapter 120. The computer system shown in FIG. 1 is but an example of a computer system suitable for use with the invention. Other computer architectures having different configurations of subsystems may also be utilized.

In a described embodiment of the present invention, the invention is generally applicable to and described in terms of computer systems implementing a Java Platform based distributed architecture. However, as will be seen in the following description, the concepts and methodologies of the present invention should not be construed to be limited to

5 a Java Platform based distributed architecture. Such an architecture is used only to describe a preferred embodiment. A distributed Java platform implementation may have many different types of hardware, operating systems, and even Java Virtual Machines (VMs). Therefore it may be necessary to debug a program running on a remote system, having completely different architecture. Also, in many instances it is preferable to actually load a main

10 debugger program on a separate computer system so that the target system can be debugged in a state as close to possible to its “original” state. As shown in Figure 2a, the Java Platform Debugger Architecture (JPDA) supports local and remote debugging by defining three separate interfaces. The Java Platform Debugger Architecture defines a set of interfaces used in the creation of debugger applications. It consists of the Java Debug Interface (JDI) and the

15 Java Debug Wire Protocol (JDWP), and the Java Virtual Machine Debug Interface (JVMDI). The JPDA provides a solution to the general connection problems encountered by debugger applications.

In the described embodiment, on a first computer system, a Java debugger runs on a first Java Virtual Machine (VM). A Java VM suitable for use in the described embodiment of

20 the present invention is shown and described in Figure 4 below. The debugger program has a front-end component (hereinafter “front-end”) that implements a high-level Java Debug Interface (JDI). A debugger application, which provides a user interface, is a client of the JDI. The debuggee is the process that is being debugged, and it consists of the application being debugged , a second Java Virtual Machine running the application, and a “back-end”

debugger agent (hereinafter “back-end”). The back-end is responsible for communicating requests from the debugger front-end to the debuggee (VM) and for communicating the response to the requests back to the front-end. The back-end communicates with the front-end over a communications channel using the Java Debug Wire Protocol (JDWP). The back-end communicates with the debuggee VM using the Java Virtual Machine Debug Interface (JVMDI).

Figure 2b is similar to Figure 2a but shows two additional components needed to enable the present invention plus transport modules. The two additional logical components are a front-end JDWP processing module and a back-end JDWP processing module. One of 10 the goals of the debugger protocol generator of the present invention is to generate front-end and back-end JDWP processing modules. The logical components shown in Figure 2b are basic components for which vendors can provide their own implementations. The front-end and back-end transport modules implement a transport mechanism, such as shared memory, socket, or serial line.

15 Thus, as is shown in Figures 2a and 2b, the Java Platform Debugger Architecture provides three separate and distinct interfaces for debugging. Third-party vendors can choose which interface level best suits their needs and write a debugger application accordingly. Specifically, the JDI is a 100% Java platform interface implemented by the front-end, which defines information and requests at a high level. For vendors who wish to concentrate on a 20 graphical user interface for the JDPA, they only need to use this level.

The JVMDI interface is a native code interface implemented by the debugger VM. It defines the services that a VM must provide for debugging and includes requests for information, actions, and notifications. Specifying the VM interface for a debugger allows any VM implementation to plug into the JPDA. The back-end may be written in non-native

code, but experience has shown that debugger support code running sharing the same VM services as the debuggee can cause deadlocks and other undesired behavior.

The JDWP defines the format of information and requests transferred between the front-end and the back-end. It does not specify the transport mechanism used to physically transmit the formatted information, that is, the form of inter-process communication (IPC) is not specified. Different transport mechanisms may be used such as sockets, serial line, shared memory, etc. The specification of the communication protocol allows the debuggee and the debugger front-end to run under separate VM implementations and/or on separate platforms.

Also, by defining an intermediate interface, the front-end may be written in a language other than the Java language, or the back-end in non-native code (i.e. Java language code). Note that due to the use of distributed interfaces, a VM vendor that does not wish to adhere to the JVMDI interface can still provide access via the JDWP.

By defining three separate interfaces, the Java Platform Debugger Architecture, JPDA overcomes many limitations associated with prior art debugger systems. The present invention addresses the problem of documenting the interface and of managing compatibility across multiple platforms and programming languages at the JDWP level. Because the JDI and JVMDI layers are conventional programming interfaces, the compatibility and documentation problems are less severe and more amenable to existing tools.

The compatibility and documentation problems are solved by generating compatible code and documentation from a single specification source. More specifically, this involves generating a front-end JDWP processing module (which becomes part of the front-end implementation in the Java language), a back-end JDWP processing module (which will become part of the back-end implementation in the C language), and HTML documentation of the protocol specification.

The tasks performed by the generated front-end JDWP processing module can be placed generally in two categories. One category relates to events generated in the debuggee VM, which must be sent to the front-end through the back-end. The front-end JDWP processing module: 1) reads and parses JDWP formatted events from the back-end; 2) 5 converts the events into JDI events; and 3) queues the events. The other category relates to requests made through the JDI by the debugger application. The front-end JDWP processing module: 1) writes JDWP formatted requests to the wire, sending them to the back-end; 2) associates the appropriate reply to the request; 3) reads and parses the reply; and 4) delivers the reply to the requestor. The back-end JDWP processing module must handle the other end 10 of the communication, so it too has two categories of processing. For event processing, the back-end JDWP processing module writes the event (which was generated through the JVMDI) to the wire, sending it to the front-end. For requesting processing, the back-end JDWP processing module: 1) reads and parses JDWP formatted requests from the front-end; 2) forwards the request to other back-end code, which will generate a reply; 3) writes the 15 reply to the wire, sending it to the front-end.

Without a mechanically assured consistency between the JDWP specification, documentation and implementation code, it is unlikely that the Java Platform Debugger Architecture could evolve into a workable multi-vendor strategy. Thus, the present invention enforces a formal specification of the interface and thereby aids its evolution. The related art 20 has not been designed to solve this problem in that it does not generate debugger implementation code and is not streamlined to the problems of debuggers.

As shown in Figure 3, a JDWPGen program parses a formal specification of the JDWP (JDWP.spec), and from the specification generates: 1) the protocol documentation (JDWPdetails.html), the front-end JDWP processing module (JDWP.java), and a C language

“include” file (JDWPConstants.h) which controls the behavior of the back-end JDWP processing module (which is presently manually written). Since both the JDWP.java and JDWPConstants.h are generated from the same specification, it is much easier to “debug” the debugger code, and to produce new versions of the JDWP without having to re-write two

5 separate programs.

In one embodiment of the present invention, a specification language is defined so that the JDWP specification can be precisely interpreted by JDWPGen. This purely declarative language is the JDWP specification language, and is described below. The syntax of the JDWP specification language primarily consists of parenthesized statements with the

10 general form: open parenthesis, statement type, argument list and close parenthesis. The argument list often consists of statements. The exact nesting these statements may have is highly constrained and is defined precisely by the following grammar for the JDWP specification language:

15           SPECIFICATION  
              NAME COMMENT SETLIST

20           SETLIST  
              SET  
              SETLIST SET

25           SET  
              ( CommandSet NAMEVALUE COMMANDLIST )  
              ( ConstantSet NAME CONSTANTLIST )

30           COMMANDLIST  
              COMMAND  
              COMMANDLIST COMMAND

35           COMMAND  
              ( Command NAMEVALUE COMMENT COMMANDBODY )

              COMMANDBODY  
              ( Out STRUCTURE ) ( Reply STRUCTURE )  
              ( Event STRUCTURE )

```
STRUCTURE
ELEMENT
STRUCTURE ELEMENT
5
ELEMENT
  ( DATATYPE NAME COMMENT )
  ( Group NAME STRUCTURE )
  ( Repeat NAME COMMENT ELEMENT )
10
  ( Select NAME SELECTOR ALTLIST )

SELECTOR
  ( INTEGRALDATATYPE NAME COMMENT )

15
ALTLIST
  ALT
  ALTLIST ALT

20
ALT
  ( Alt NAMEVALUE COMMENT STRUCTURE )

25
DATATYPE
  INTEGRALDATATYPE
  boolean
  object
  threadObject
  threadGroupObject
  arrayObject
  stringObject
  30
  classLoaderObject
  classObject
  referenceType
  referenceTypeID
  classType
  35
  interfaceType
  arrayType
  method
  field
  frame
  40
  string
  value
  location
  tagged-object
  referenceTypeID
  45
  typed-sequence
  untagged-value
```

INTEGRALDATATYPE

```
int
long
byte

5      CONSTANTLIST
      CONSTANT
      CONSTANTLIST CONSTANT

      CONSTANT
10     ( Constant NAMEVALUE COMMENT )

      NAMEVALUE
      NAME = NUMBER
      NAME = NAME
```

15 The symbols in all capital letters are non-terminals and all other symbols are terminals. Non-terminals are defined within the grammar except for the following:

20 NAME a sequence of letters
 NUMBER a sequence of digits
 COMMENT arbitrary text within double quotes or nothing

#### Semantics of Specification Language

25 A request command specifies a request for information made by the front-end where the Out section exactly specifies the format of the data that makes up the request and the Reply section exactly specifies the format of the data that will be returned by the back-end. An event command exactly specifies the format of data in an event emanating from the back-end. Constants specify specific values for use within commands.

30 In the present embodiment, JDWPGen employs a recursive descent parser to parse the JDWP specification, which is written in the JDWP specification language. Other parsing techniques could be used as well, such as a generated LALR(1) parser. The parser constructs an abstract syntax tree representation of the specification. Each node in the tree is an object that encapsulates the actions needed to generate the outputs for that node. The nodes 35 correspond directly with statements in the input specification. All further processing is

accomplished by “walking” this abstract syntax tree. Several passes are used to resolve names and check for errors. Finally, the tree is walked three more times to generate the outputs: once to generate the Java class which is used by the front-end to send and receive information across JDWP; once to generate the C include file containing the definitions used by the back-end to send and receive information across JDWP; and once to generate the published human-readable specification document in HTML.

Figure 4 is a diagrammatic representation of a virtual machine, such as a JVM, that can be supported by computer system 100 of Figure 1 described above. Source code 401 is provided to a bytecode compiler 403 within a compile-time environment 409. Bytecode compiler 403 translates source code 401 into bytecodes 405. In general, source code 401 is translated into bytecodes 405 at the time source code 401 is created by a software developer.

Bytecodes 405 can generally be reproduced, downloaded, or otherwise distributed through a network, *e.g.*, through network interface 124 of Figure 1, or stored on a storage device such as primary storage 104 of Figure 1. In the described embodiment, bytecodes 405 are platform independent. That is, bytecodes 405 may be executed on substantially any computer system that is running a suitable virtual machine. Native instructions formed by compiling bytecodes may be retained for later use by the JVM. In this way the cost of the translation are amortized over multiple executions to provide a speed advantage for native code over interpreted code. By way of example, in a Java™ environment, bytecodes 405 can be executed on a computer system that is running a JVM.

Bytecodes 405 are provided to a runtime environment 413 which includes a virtual machine 411. Runtime environment 413 can generally be executed using a processor such as CPU 102 of Figure 1. Virtual machine 411 includes a compiler 415, an interpreter 417, and a

runtime system 419. Bytecodes 405 can generally be provided either to compiler 415 or interpreter 417.

When bytecodes 405 are provided to compiler 415, methods contained in bytecodes 405 are compiled into native machine instructions (not shown). On the other hand, when bytecodes 405 are provided to interpreter 417, bytecodes 405 are read into interpreter 417 one bytecode at a time. Interpreter 417 then performs the operation defined by each bytecode as each bytecode is read into interpreter 417. In general, interpreter 417 processes bytecodes 405 and performs operations associated with bytecodes 405 substantially continuously.

When a method is called from an operating system 421, if it is determined that the

10 method is to be invoked as an interpreted method, runtime system 419 can obtain the method from interpreter 417. If, on the other hand, it is determined that the method is to be invoked as a compiled method, runtime system 419 activates compiler 415. Compiler 415 then generates native machine instructions from bytecodes 405, and executes the machine-language instructions. In general, the machine-language instructions are discarded when 15 virtual machine 411 terminates. The operation of virtual machines or, more particularly, Java™ virtual machines, is described in more detail in [The Java™ Virtual Machine Specification](#) by Tim Lindholm and Frank Yellin (ISBN 0-201-63452-X), which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that various adaptations and modifications of the just-described preferred embodiments can be configured without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention. Therefore, it is to be understood that, within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced other than as specifically described herein.

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A method for assuring compatibility between a formal specification, a front-end debugger program, and a back-end debugger program which interfaces with a debuggee system, the method comprising:

inputting a formal specification into a code generator;

parsing the formal specification;

generating a front-end debugger program portion from the specification; and

generating a back-end debugger program portion from the specification.

10

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the front-end debugger program runs on a first virtual machine.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the front-end debugger program portion comprises Java programming language code.

15 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the back-end debugger program directly controls and communicates with a second virtual machine.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the back-end debugger program portion comprises C language code.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the formal specification is a Java Debug Wire

20 Protocol specification.

7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising generating HTML code that contains a human-readable description of the protocol specification.

8. A method of Claim 1 further comprising a communication protocol between the front-end program and the back-end program defined by the formal specification

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the formal specification is written in a declarative language.

10. The method of Claim 8, wherein the communication protocol is a Java Debug Wire Protocol.

5 11. The method of Claim 8, further comprising generating HTML code from the formal specification that contains a human-readable description of the communication protocol defined by the formal specification.

10 12. A method for automatically generating front-end debugger interface code and back-end debugger agent interface code that are both compatible with a communication protocol, the method comprising:

15 writing a formal specification file that contains a description of a communication protocol between the front-end debugger code and the back-end debugger agent code;

inputting the formal specification file into a code generator;

parsing the formal specification;

15 generating the front-end debugger interface code from the formal specification; and generating the back-end debugger agent interface code from the formal specification.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the front-end debugger interface code comprises Java code, the back-end debugger agent interface code comprises C code, and the formal specification comprises a specification language.

20 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the communication protocol is a Java Debug Wire Protocol.

15. A computer readable medium including computer program code for automatically generating front-end debugger interface code and back-end debugger interface code that are both compatible with a communication protocol, the computer readable medium comprising:

computer program code for inputting a formal protocol specification;  
computer program code for parsing the formal protocol specification;  
computer code for generating front-end debugger interface computer code from the specification; and

5 computer code for generating back-end debugger interface computer code from the specification.

16. The medium of claim 15, further comprising computer code for generating HTML code containing a human-readable description of the communication protocol.

17. The medium of Claim 16, wherein the communication protocol is a Java Debug

10 Wire Protocol.

18. A computer system for automatically generating front-end debugger interface code and back-end debugger interface code that are both compatible with an communication protocol, the computer system comprising:

a processor; and

15 a computer program operating on the processor that reads in a formal communication protocol specification, parses the specification, and generates front-end debugger interface code and back-end debugger interface code, such that the front-end code and the back-end code are fully compliant with the specification and compatible with each other.

## **ABSTRACT**

A method for automatically generating front-end code and back-end code that are both compatible with a specification, such as the JDWP communication protocol. First, a detailed protocol specification is written that contains a description of an communication protocol  
5 between the front-end code and the back-end code. The detailed specification is then input into a code generator that parses the specification. The front-end code is then automatically generated from the formal specification, and may be written in a first computer language such as the Java<sup>TM</sup> programming language. The code generator then generates the back-end code, which may be written in a second computer language such as C.

10

010000-97504560

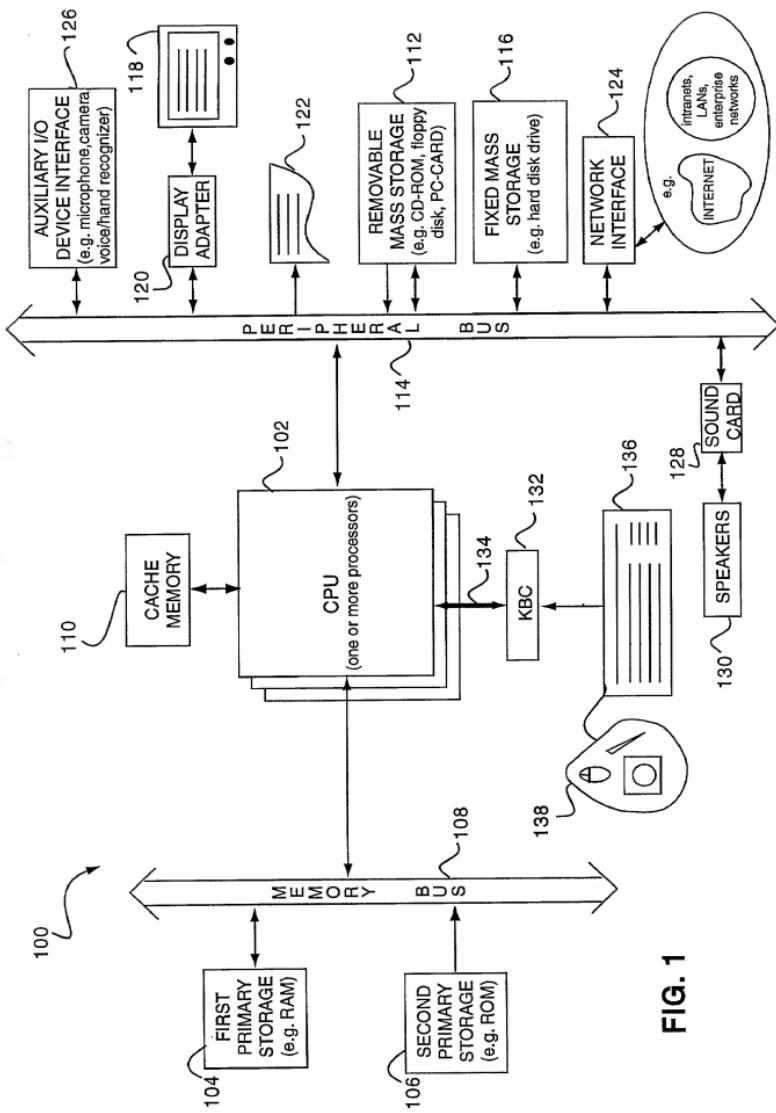


FIG. 1

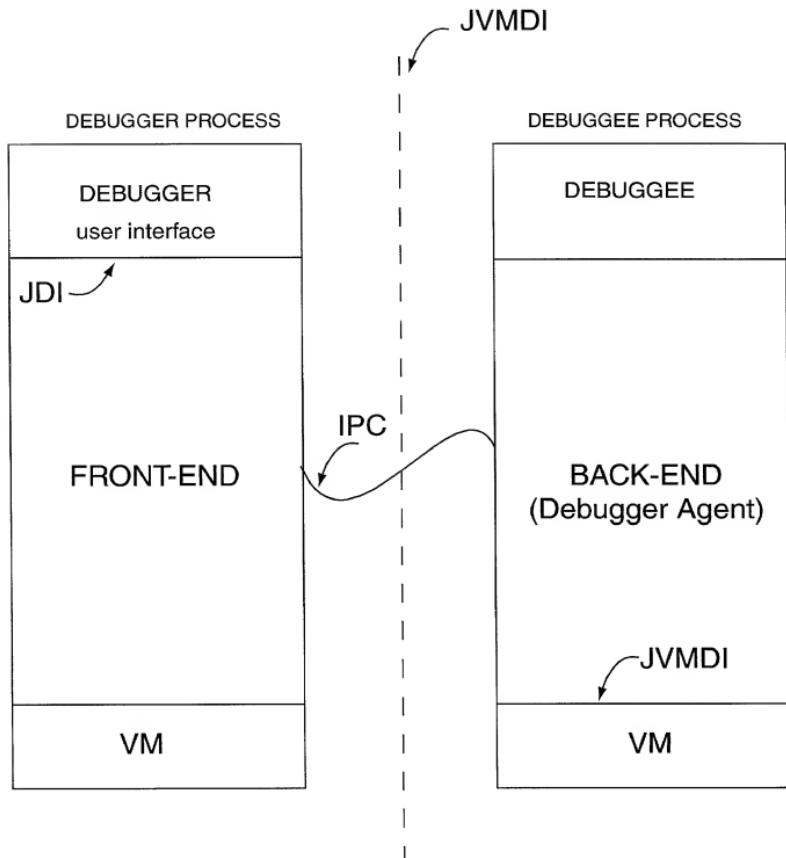


Figure 2a

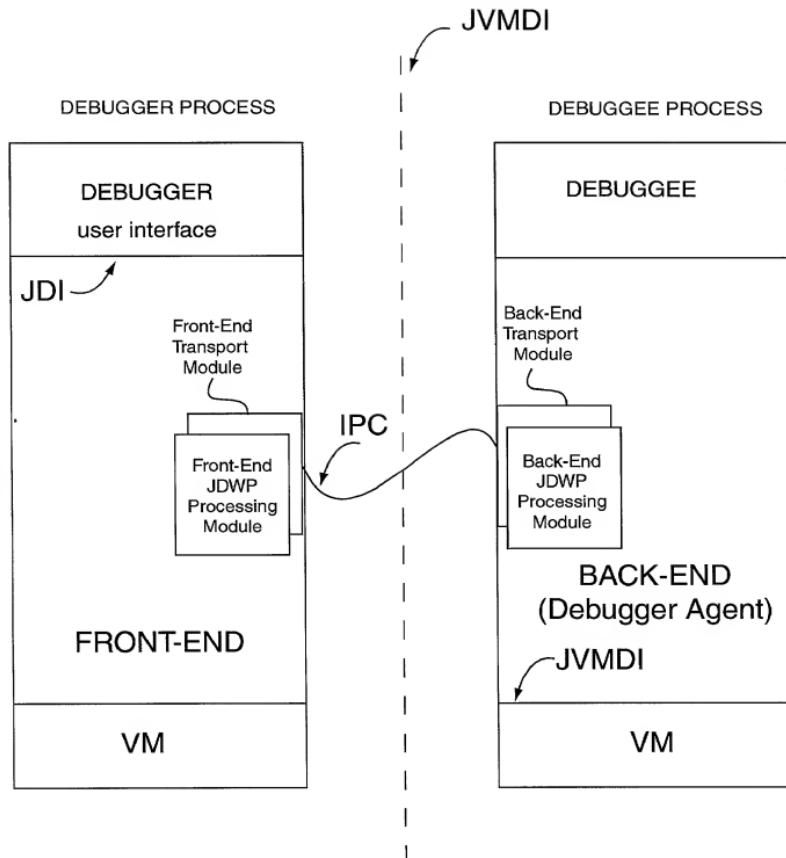


Figure 2b

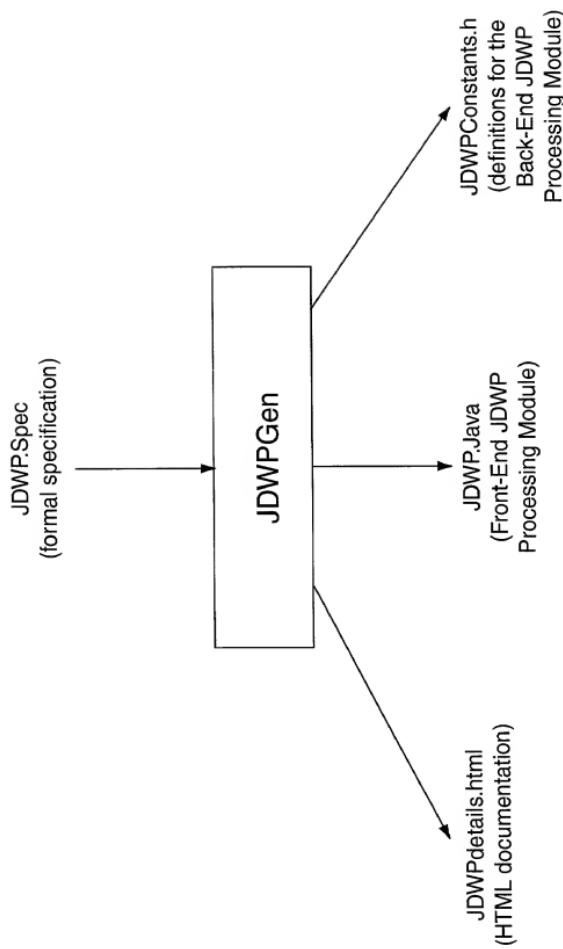


FIG. 3

00760 \* 92504560

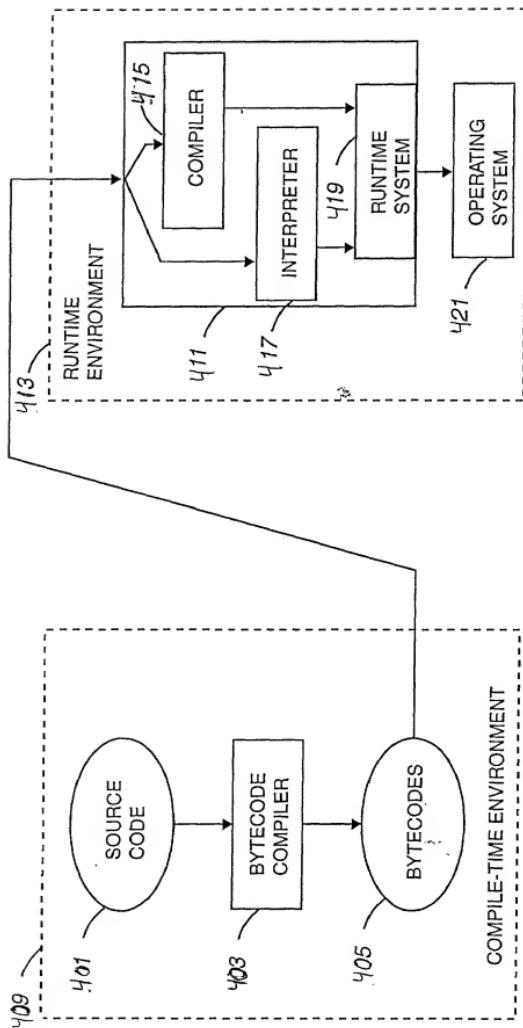


FIG.4

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
FOR ORIGINAL U.S. PATENT APPLICATION**

Attorney's Docket No. **SUNIP252/P4198**

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **Debugger Protocol Generator** the specification of which,

(check one)

1.  is attached hereto.

2.  was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as  
U.S. Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as  
International PCT Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, CFR § 1.56.

**Prior Foreign Application(s)**

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States code, § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

(Application No.)	(Country)	(Filing Date)	Priority Benefits Claimed? Yes ____ No ____
_____	_____	_____	Yes ____ No ____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Provisional Application(s)**

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

<u>60/145,136</u> (Application No.)	<u>July 21, 1999</u> (Filing Date)
_____	_____

**Prior U.S. Application(s)**

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)

**Power of Attorney**

And I hereby appoint the law firm of **Beyer Weaver Thomas & Nguyen, LLP** and all practitioners who are associated with the Customer Number 022434 as my principal attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

00000000000000000000000000000000

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Rupak Nag at telephone number (510) 843-6200

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: FIELD and HIRSCH

Attorney Docket No.: SUN1P252/P4198

Application No.: To Be Assigned

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Filed: HEREWITH

Group: To Be Assigned

Title: DEBUGGER PROTOCOL GENERATOR

ASSOCIATE POWER OF ATTORNEYAssistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The undersigned attorney of record in the subject patent application hereby grants an Associate Power of Attorney to Kenneth Olsen, Reg. No. 26,493; Timothy J. Crean, Reg. No. 37,116; Robert S. Hauser, Reg. No. 37,847; Joseph T. FitzGerald, Reg. No. 33,881; Alexander E. Silverman, Reg. No. 37,940; Christine S. Lam, Reg. No. 37,489, Anirma Rakshpal Gupta, Reg. No. 38,275; Sean P. Lewis, Reg. No. 42,798; Michael J. Schallop, Reg. No. 44,319; Bernice B. Chen, Reg. No. 42,403; Kenta Suzue, Reg. No. 45,145; Noreen A. Krall, Reg. No. 39,734; and Richard J. Lutton, Jr. Reg. No. 39,756, all of Sun Microsystems, Inc. to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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Please direct any calls to **Rupak Nag** (510) 843-6200.Respectfully submitted,  
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